

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (new) A tube for installing an optical fiber unit, which is to be installed in a communication pipe, the tube comprising:

an inner layer defining an opening for receiving the optical fiber unit, and having a lubricous component for decreasing friction against the optical fiber unit; and

a sheath provided around the inner layer and made of polymer with a lower coefficient of friction than polyethylene in order to decrease friction when the tube is installed in the communication pipe.

10. (new) The tube according to claim 9, further comprising a reinforcing layer interposed between the inner layer and the sheath so as to increase strength of the tube itself.

11. (new) The tube according to claim 10 wherein the tensile strength of the reinforcing layer is higher than 20 MPa.

12. (new) The tube according to claim 10 wherein the reinforcing layer is made of polyethylene.

13. (new) The tube according to claim 9,
wherein the sheath includes a lubricous component so as to decrease friction between the tube and the communication pipe.

14. (new) The tube according to claim 13,
wherein the lubricous component is silicon, carbon or PBT (Poly Butylene Terephthalate).

15. (new) The tube according to claim 10,
wherein the sheath includes a lubricous component so as to decrease friction between the tube and the communication pipe.

16. (new) The tube according to claim 15,

wherein the lubricous component is silicon, carbon or PBT (Poly Butylene Terephthalate).

17. (new) The tube according to claim 9, wherein the polymer is polyethylene containing a lubricous component.

18. (new) The tube according to claim 17, wherein the lubricous component is silicon, carbon or PBT.

19. (new) The tube according to claim 9 wherein the inner layer and sheath are made of the same material.

20. (new) A tube for installing an optical fiber unit, which is to be installed in a communication pipe,

wherein the tube is made of a single layer made of polymer having a lower coefficient of friction than polyethylene so as to decrease friction against the optical fiber unit contacted with an inner circumference of the tube while the optical fiber unit is installed by gas pressure as well as friction generated on an outer circumference of the tube while the tube is installed in the communication pipe.

21. (new) The tube according to claim 20, wherein the single layer is composed of PBT.